

25 in 2001 · 21 in 2002  
16% decrease

# Narcotics Arrests

*Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.*

## Geographic Breakdown of Drug Incidents

Neighborhood	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2002
East Cambridge	3	0	2
MIT	2	0	0
Inman/Harrington	0	4	0
Area 4	4	2	5
Cambridgeport	6	2	2
Mid-Cambridge	5	4	0
Riverside	0	1	5
Agassiz	0	0	1
Peabody	0	3	0
West Cambridge	4	1	1
North Cambridge	2	6	2
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	1
Strawberry Hill	0	0	2

of the 21 incidents were possession of narcotics, while the remaining 7 were possession with intent to distribute. Nine incidents involved marijuana; 7 involved crack/cocaine; 4 involved heroin; and, 2 involved prescription drugs. Other than SIU surveillance, a substantial amount of drug arrests were the results of simple traffic stops, which resulted in the discovery of narcotics.

## OxyContin

Popular features of OxyContin are said to appeal to recreational users due to the fact that it is considered safer than street drugs since it is lab-produced, and its time-release properties mean more OxyCodone — up to 160 milligrams — can be packed into each pill. The surge in OxyContin robberies seems to reflect the high price that the drug demands on the street and its powerfully addictive high. The street value is \$1 a milligram, and the pills come in dosages of 10, 20, 40, 80 and 160 milligrams - the average pill on the street is \$40.

*The Boston Globe* has reported that approximately 40 OxyContin robberies were solved since early spring of 2001, leading Boston-area police to believe the robberies were the work of organized bandits. Immediately following this idea, a recent surge of midday robberies evolved, which were committed by a new kind of OxyContin robber: the dealer-junkie. Since first-time addicts soon develop higher tolerances, requiring larger dosages for the same high. In many cases, habits like these can cost more than \$1,000 a week. Since many addicts cannot afford such an expensive high, many have gone back to heroin, which is much cheaper at \$4 a bag, and is easier to get on the street. In the end, there is so much money to make with OxyContin, that stealing and selling the drug has become irresistible to dealers and addicts who can get their hands on it.

*The New York Times* has reported that there had been a series of 14 robberies of pharmacies in Boston and its suburbs during the summer of June and July alone, contributing to a surge of robberies of drugstores throughout the U.S. During these incidents, the robbers had ignored cash registers and other drugs and taken only OxyContin. It had also been said that the same group of young white males were committing these thefts due to similarity in 85% of the thefts in Massachusetts.

The following page includes a description of OxyContin, the new 'hot' drug which has been the target of many Drug Store/Pharmacy robberies throughout Massachusetts. The information can be accredited to "Street Drugs" on [www.streetdrugs.org](http://www.streetdrugs.org).

In the first quarter of 2002, there were roughly as many incidents involving drug sales/trafficking or possession (21) as there were in the first quarter of 2001 (25). This number has been in a slow consistent decline, with 27 incidents occurring during the first quarter of 2000.

Arrests have continued to decline due to the Special Investigations Unit's successful efforts to fight narcotic offenses. Of the 21 incidents that occurred, at least 7 resulted in arrests due to SIU surveillance and investigations. One incident resulted in two arrests, netting 25 pieces of crack cocaine. Another large incident resulted in 3 arrests, netting 34 Vicodin pills and empty prescription drug bottles stolen from a clinic.

Fourteen

## Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling 617-349-3359. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in confidence.***



OxyContin® is a sustained, controlled release formulation of oxycodone - CSA Schedule II. Its formulation was designed for use in moderate to severe pain of prolonged duration. Oxycodone is a semi-synthetic opioid structurally related to codeine and is approximately equipotent to morphine in producing opiate-like effects.

Oxycodone abuse has been a continuing problem in the United States since the early 1960's. The abuse of a new sustained-release formulation of oxycodone (OxyContin®), has escalated over the last year. Drug abuse treatment centers, law enforcement personnel, and pharmacists initially reported an increase in the abuse of these sustained-release products in Maine, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Florida and Maryland. The problem has now expanded throughout the United States.

*OxyContin killed more drug abusers in Florida than either heroin or cocaine in the first 6 months of 2001.*

Source: Reuters January 2002

#### Licit Uses

Oxycodone is an effective analgesic for mild to moderate pain control, chronic pain syndromes, and for the treatment of terminal cancer pain. Five milligrams (mg) of oxycodone is equivalent to 30 mg of codeine when administered orally.

Products containing oxycodone are available in tablet, capsule, and liquid forms. The primary method of providing oxycodone to the illicit market has been through forged prescriptions, professional diversion through unscrupulous pharmacists, doctors, and dentists, and large-scale thefts.

Source: DEA - 2001

*From 1999 to 2000, emergency room episodes related to drugs containing oxycodone (including Percocet, Percodan, and OxyContin) increased 68 percent.*

Source: DAWN - 2001

# OxyContin



#### Street Names

"Oxy"  
"OC"  
"Killer"

*Another opioid that is regularly abused is hydrocodone (Vicodin).*



**Signs of Use:** Generally a "drunken-like" state exhibiting nausea, drowsiness, impaired coordination, weakness, confusion, and tiredness.

**General Effects:** Muscle relaxation, lowered blood pressure, lowered heart rate, lowered respiratory rate.

**Serious Effects:** Allergic reaction, difficulty breathing, closing of throat, swelling of lips, tongue, or face, or hives, cold clammy skin, small pupils, seizures, loss of consciousness and coma.

**Long Term Effects:** Constipation, dryness of the mouth, respiratory depression, physical tolerance as well as psychological and physical dependence may occur.

# Malicious Destruction

Neighborhood	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2002
East Cambridge	17	26	<b>40</b>
MIT	4	2	<b>1</b>
Inman/Harrington	7	18	<b>7</b>
Area 4	30	24	<b>23</b>
Cambridgeport	28	26	<b>36</b>
Mid-Cambridge	16	17	<b>18</b>
Riverside	17	23	<b>20</b>
Agassiz	8	4	<b>2</b>
Peabody	10	19	<b>24</b>
West Cambridge	19	20	<b>9</b>
North Cambridge	20	26	<b>19</b>
Highlands	8	3	<b>5</b>
Strawberry Hill	6	6	<b>3</b>

*Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently*

*ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.*

Destruction Act	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2002
Car Window	49	<b>58</b>
Car (Other)	32	<b>48</b>
Graffiti	45	<b>24</b>
Pinstriping	16	<b>8</b>
Tire Slashing	18	<b>20</b>
Business Window	13	<b>9</b>
Business (Other)	15	<b>11</b>
Attempted Theft	0	<b>13</b>
House Window	11	<b>6</b>
Residence (Other)	15	<b>9</b>
Revenge	2	<b>0</b>
Shop Damage	0	<b>1</b>

There were 207 incidents of malicious destruction, or "vandalism," reported in the first quarter of 2002, a 3% decrease from the 214 reported in 2001. East Cambridge has seen an increase this year, rising from 26 to 40 incidents, accounting for the 54% surge. Thirty of those forty incidents in East Cambridge were done to cars, which is a huge jump from last year's eleven motor vehicle vandalisms. Throughout the city, there has been a surge in malicious destruction to motor vehicles, including a tire slashing spree which occurred during the second week in February where 10 cars were hit – most of which occurred in lower Cambridge, near Central and Inman Squares.

55 in 2001 · 116 in 2002  
110% Increase

## Fraud and Forgery

*The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.*

In the first quarter of 2002, there were 116 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared with 55 during the first three months of 2001. The driving force behind the 110% increase in this crime type was the dramatic increase in the number of identity thefts and stolen credit cards.

- **Counterfeiting:** During the first quarter of 2002, there were no reports of phony money registered in Cambridge
- **Application:** There have been no forged applications reported so far this year.
- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took eight reports for this crime in the first quarter of 2002.
- **Forged Check:** Nineteen crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim's signature. This compares with seven in 2001.

Crime	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2002
<b>Counterfeiting</b>	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Forgery/Uttering</b>	42	<b>83</b>
Application	3	0
Bad Check	3	8
Forged Check	7	19
ATM/Credit Card	29	56
<b>Embezzlement</b>	3	<b>1</b>
<b>Con Games</b>	4	<b>3</b>
Big Carrot	2	0
Utility Impostor	1	0
Pigeon Drop	0	0
Charity	1	2
Psychic	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	1
<b>Identity Theft</b>	6	<b>29</b>



- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** Fifty-six incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card were reported, compared to twenty-nine in 2001. This crime is becoming more popular with the proliferation of “check cards.” The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime.

- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to himself. This crime often involves store clerks – often juveniles – taking the day’s deposits or a selection of merchandise. Only one incident was reported in the first three months of 2002. The Galleria Mall and Harvard Square stores are affected most.

- **“Con” Games:** We had three swindles, con games or flim flams in the first three months of 2002, compared to four in 2001. The first “charity” scam involved a man soliciting donations for the Cambridge Fire Department Relief Association. The second involved a man asking for money to aid his dying wife – the man promised to pay the victim back, but never did. The third con game reported involved a customer asking for change and denominations of money so many times that the clerk got confused and gave the customer too much money back. This is a well-known con game that the Crime Analysis Unit has seen in the past.

20 in 2000 · 22 in 2002  
10% decrease

## Sex Offenses

*Sex Offenses refers to six crimes of a sexual nature: prostitution and solicitation, indecent assault, indecent exposure, peeping and spying, annoying & accosting, and obscene telephone calls. Rape is not include because it is a Part I crime.*

### Prostitution and Solicitation

Prostitution is commonly associated with “streetwalking,” (prostitutes working the streets) but is also escort services, where a “john” (prostitutes’ clients) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the “john’s” location. There were four prostitution arrests in mid-January set up by the Department’s Special Investigations Unit. The Unit set up a sting operation resulting in four arrests of women, ranging in ages from 17 to 34 years old. In the nineties, the Special Investigations Unit proactively fought the visible “streetwalking” problem, nearly eradicating this problem in Cambridge.

Crime	2001	2002
Prostitution & Solicitation	0	4
Indecent Assault	4	2
Indecent Exposure	9	3
Peeping & Spying	0	5
Annoying & Accosting	3	3
Obscene Phone Calls	4	5

### Indecent Assault

Indecent assault is the unwanted touching of a person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. In most cases the victim knows the offender. Any incident where force or injury occurs would be considered an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. In the first three months, two “blitz” style incidents occurred. A typical blitz assault is when a female is approached from behind and grabbed on their buttocks, which accounts for one of the assaults from this year. The male suspect was arrested after grabbing the victim’s buttocks while riding her bicycle. In the other incident, a male suspect riding a bicycle grabbed the female victim’s chest while she was walking alone late at night.

### Indecent Exposure

This crime is described as a crime in which the main offenders are vagrants or those who are inebriated and relieve themselves. There has been a large decrease in this type of crime. This year, there were three reported incidents, however, no arrests were made. In two incidents, the male suspects called an unknowing victim to their attention and began masturbating.

### Peeping and Spying

Peeping and spying occurs most often when offenders will peer through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. The five incidents all appear to be unrelated as last year’s pattern of a male suspect peering into male victim’s houses has not prevailed yet this year. One arrest was recorded when the male suspect was seen peering into a Harvard dormitory room. The four other incidents were also male suspects. In one isolated incident, a fellow employee watched a female victim at a local business while she was showering and changing in the bathroom.